Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

This application is a Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of PCT/JP02/11377 filed October 31,

<u>2002.</u>

Page 19, please replace Table 1 with the following rewritten Table 1:

		B/A			1.06	1.15	1. 26	1.27	1.06	1. 26	1.06	1. 26	1.08	1.26
Table 1	Loss from	top of column		(%)	0.4	1.9	5.4	4.4	0.5	5.3	0.3	3.8	0.9	4.3
	Flow rate Acrylic acid in bottom of column		Flow rate	(kg/h)	3158	3105	2995	3043	3155	3008	3183	3110	3150	3066
			Concentration	(wt%)	61.8	67.5	73.6	74.4	68.3	81.3	61.8	73.7	63.0	73.8
	Flow rate	of bottoms		(kg/h)	5110	4600	4070	4090	4620	3700	5150	4220	2000	4150
	Flow rate of	+acrylic acid	in top of column	(kg/h)	12	09	172	140	16	169	6	121	28	137
					Example 1	Example 2	Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2	Example 3	Comparative Example 3	Example 4	Comparative Example 4	Example 5	Comparative Example 5

Page 20, line 1-9, please rewrite as follows:

The amount flow rate of acrylic acid in the bottom of the column is equal to [the flow rate of the liquid in the bottom of the column] x [the concentration of acrylic acid in the bottom of the column]; and

the loss from the top of the column is equal to [the flow rate of acrylic acid in the top of the column] / [(the flow rate of acrylic acid in the top of the column) + (the flow rate of acrylic acid in the bottom of the column)] $\times 100(\%)$.